

Message

From: CN=Phil North/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US [CN=Phil North/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US]
Sent: 1/26/2011 9:37:33 PM
To: CN=Palmer Hough/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA
Subject: Re: FYI - two upcoming briefings on Bristol Bay at EPA HQ

Palmer,

The BBNC group ought to be interesting. It includes members of four villages that have requested the 404(c) and one that has opposed it.

Phil

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"To protect your rivers, protect your mountains."

From: Palmer Hough/DC/USEPA/US
To: Bill Dunbar/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Cara Steiner-Riley/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Dave Athons/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, David Allnutt/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Gary Sonnevill/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Heather Dean/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Heidi Karp/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Julia McCarthy/R8/USEPA/US@EPA, Marianne Holsman/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Mary Thiesing/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Michael Szerlog/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Palmer Hough/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Patricia McGrath/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Phil North/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Rachel Fertik/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Richard Parkin/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Tami Fordham/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Christopher Hunter/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, David Evans/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Brian Frazer/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Tanya Code/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Darren Reid/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 01/26/2011 07:56 AM
Subject: FYI - two upcoming briefings on Bristol Bay at EPA HQ

Bristol Bay Team:

FYI, there are two upcoming briefings on BB here in DC for OWOW Director Denise Keehner.

- 1) The first is set for 1/27 from 2-4 pm ET. It was organized at the request of TU and will include a team of scientists who plan to present current science regarding potential impacts of large-scale mining on the BB.
- 2) The second will likely be 2/15, 16 or 17 (I will let you know as soon as it has been set). It is being organized at the request of BBNA as a follow-up to their request that EPA initiate an advance 404(c) action in BB. See 1/19 briefing request below.

For both of these briefings, a call in line has been set up to allow interested folks from R10 to participate. The call in number is 

Nonresponsive Conference Code

The 1/27 briefing will have a number of powerpoints. I will forward those powerpoints to the team in advance of the call.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks, Palmer

Background on 1/27 OWOW Bristol Bay Briefing from Scientists (provided by TU)

Who: I will be traveling to DC with a team of scientists that are sharing current science about the potential impacts on Bristol Bay from the proposed Pebble mine as well as The Nature Conservancy's recently published: An Assessment of Ecological Risk to Wild Salmon Systems from Large-scale Mining in the Nushagak and Kvichak Watersheds of the Bristol Bay Basin. The team includes a number of experts in their fields including Dr. Ann Maest, Dr. David Chambers, and Dr. Tom Quinn. Bios are listed below.

Why: The USEPA is currently considering requests from tribes, commercial fishermen, native corporations and sportsmen for a preemptive Clean Water Act 404c action in Bristol Bay Alaska. Bristol Bay is home to the largest wild salmon fishery on the planet and is currently threatened by the proposed Pebble mine. If developed, Pebble would be the largest open pit mine in North America. While the decision to invoke 404c in Bristol Bay will rest solely with the EPA, a number of other federal agencies manage resources in this area and will have the opportunity to bring their expertise and knowledge to the table. We wish to begin a dialog with these agencies about the resources at risk and the existing science on the subject.

When: January 27th and 28th 2011.

Biographies:

Ann S. Maest: Ann is an aqueous geochemist with expertise in the fate and transport of natural and anthropogenic contaminants in groundwaters, surface waters, and sediments. The results of Dr. Maest's research have been published in books and in peer-reviewed journals, including Applied Geochemistry, Chemical Geology, Applied and Environmental Microbiology, and Environmental Science and Technology. Formerly, Dr. Maest was an independent environmental consultant specializing in water quality impacts of hard rock mining, transport of toxics in groundwater and surface waters, and drinking water quality.

Thomas Quinn: Dr. Thomas Quinn, a Professor at the University of Washington in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, his research has focused on salmon ecology, evolution and conservation. Dr. Quinn has done research in B.C. in the past and is currently working on sockeye salmon stocks in western Alaska, and salmon and trout in Puget Sound. He has published over 200 scientific articles on salmon and trout.

David Chambers: David Chambers has 35 years of experience in mineral exploration and development – 15 years of technical and management experience in the mineral exploration industry, and for the past 20 years he has served as an advisor on the environmental effects of mining projects both nationally and internationally. He has Professional Engineering Degree in Physics from the Colorado School of Mines, a Master of Science Degree in Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley, and is a registered professional geophysicist in California. Dr. Chambers received his Ph.D. in Environmental Planning from Berkeley where his doctoral dissertation analyzed the U.S. Forest Service's efforts to plan for and manage minerals on the National Forests.

Other participants include: David Albert - Conservation Science Director TNC Alaska, Shoren Brown - Alaska Policy Director Trout Unlimited, Sarah O'Neil - fisheries biologist.

----- Forwarded by Darren Reid/DC/USEPA/US on 01/20/2011 09:18 AM -----

From: Karl Ohls <kohls@northstargrp.com>
To: Michael Stahl/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Darren Reid/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Veronica Slajer <vaslajer@northstargrp.com>, Amy Sparck Dobmeier <amy@northstargrp.com>, JFA Associate <jfa-assoc@jackferguson.com>
Date: 01/19/2011 05:39 PM
Subject: Bristol Bay Native Assn appointment request

Mr. Michael Stahl
Acting Director
American Indian Environmental Office, EPA

Mr. Darren Reid
Scheduler
Office of Wetlands, Oceans & Watersheds

Mr. Stahl and Mr. Reid,

I am helping the Bristol Bay Native Association in Alaska set up an appointment schedule for a mid-February, 2011 visit to Washington, D.C. While in DC, the BBNA delegation would like to meet with the appropriate officials at EPA regarding proposed mining projects in the Bristol Bay region and the regulation of water quality from those projects. From my research, I understand that the American Indian Environmental Office and the Office of Wetlands, Oceans & Watersheds would have the most knowledge about these subjects.

Specifically, on behalf of BBNA, I would like to request an appointment with you, Mr. Stahl, or your designee, and, Mr. Reid, with Acting Director Denise Keehner or her designee at a convenient time on either Feb. 15, 16 or 17. Please let me know if your offices would be the most appropriate ones to meet with, or if you would recommend that other people at EPA also be contacted. Any assistance you could offer in scheduling appointments for the BBNA representatives to discuss mining & water quality issues would be most appreciated.

Below, I have listed the names and affiliations of the BBNA delegation members who will be traveling to DC. Given its size, the group will break into smaller teams for purposes of attending the appointments.

Just for background information, BBNA is a non-profit tribal consortium organized to provide a variety of educational, social, economic and related services to the Native people and communities of Alaska's Bristol Bay region. Made up of 31 recognized tribes, BBNA's mission is to maintain and promote a strong regional organization that serves as a unified voice for the region's indigenous population. Commercial and subsistence fishing are the region's most important sources of income and sustenance, and are important culturally to all of the residents. The Bristol Bay watershed produces the one of the world's largest wild salmon runs.

Please let me know if I can provide you with any additional information. Thank you for your consideration of this request!

Karl Ohls
North Star Group
202-544-6355 office

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BBNA Executive Committee participants in WDC appointments:

Fred "Ted" Angasan, Chairman (South Naknek Village Council)
Thomas Tilden, Vice Chairman (Curyung Tribal Council)
Robert Heyano, Secretary (Ekuk Village Council)
Margie Nelson, Treasurer (New Koliganek Village Council)
Helen Gregorio, Member (Togiak Traditional Council)
Harvey Anelon, Member (Iliamna Village Council)
Dennis Andrew, Member (New Stuyahok Village Council)
Harry Wassily Sr., Member (Clarks Point Village Council)
Victor Seybert, Member (Pilot Point Village Council)
Patrick Kosbruk, Member (Perryville Village Council)
Ralph Andersen, President & Chief Executive Officer, BBNA
Bruce Baltar, General Counsel, BBNA
Amy Sparck Dobmeier, Consultant, North Star Group

